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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, we wanted to raise a loan of Rs. 5 crores in the open market. That amount has been allotted to us from the National Development Loan. What does it matter whether we raise it ourselves or get it through the Government of India? But there are certain advantages in the Government of India raising it for us because the rate of interest is a little bit cheaper when it is raised by the Government of India."

Pest attack on paddy cultivation in South Kanara.

* 62 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that many acres of cultivated land in Hosdrug and Nileshwar firkas in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara district, were affected by pests in May and June 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nearly 150 acres of land in Nileshwar and Hosdrug firkas were affected by swarming caterpillar pest during May and June 1954.

"(*b*) Immediately on receipt of information about the pest outbreak the Plant Protection staff and the local field staff of the Agricultural Department were deputed to inspect the area and arrange for control measures. Insecticides and pesticides were sold at the concessional rate of 50 per cent of the cost price. The pest was completely controlled by the first week of June 1954."

* 63 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of land affected by the recent pest attack on paddy cultivation in Hosdrug sub-taluk, South Kanara district; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken to prevent the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to the starred question No. 62 put by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., on the same subject."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As the peasants have incurred much loss due to the pest attack, will the Government consider the desirability of granting land revenue remission in that particular area? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is a different question, Sir. It may be put separately."

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SRI M. MUNI REDDI :—" Sir, will the Government come forward and direct the panchayat boards to purchase dust-guns and sprayers so that the people themselves might effectively check the spread of pests in paddy and other fields?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, if the panchayat boards have necessary finances and if they come forward to buy some sprayers, they could be supplied to the ryots in the villages. Government would only welcome that move."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that because the Agricultural Department failed to take steps in time the infection was widespread, causing considerable damage to crops?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir. It is not correct to say that the Agricultural Department did not take timely precautionary measures."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Sir, what was the actual amount required to control this disease per acre?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no exact figures about it. Perhaps it may cost about Rs. 7 per acre."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there is always a time lag between the actual outbreak and spread of the pest attack and notice being given to Government officers, would Government take this opportunity of constituting agricultural advisory committees with real power so that they can even inform and call upon the attendance of the Agricultural department staff to attend to these matters?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not think any advisory committee will really serve the purpose that is referred to by the hon. Member."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In his answer the Hon. Minister stated that 150 acres were affected by the pest and considerable loss was caused to the peasants. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Department has taken action in time? When was this attack brought to the notice of the Department and when did the Department start taking action?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the pest was noticed on the 24th May 1954. Immediately on receipt of information about this outbreak, the plant protection staff of the Department were deputed to inspect the area and about 65 acres were immediately treated."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" Sir, even if the ryots are in a position to purchase these pesticides, they are not able to get the sprayers from the Department in time. Will the Hon. the Minister see that more sprayers are distributed to all the taluk depots, Sir?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, Government will look into the suggestion."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that immediately on receipt of notice, the Agricultural Department staff went up. May I know when the pest attack was noticed, when the information reached the Departmental staff and when action was taken? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have already stated that the pest was noticed on 24th May 1954 and there was no time lag. Immediately the staff of the Agricultural Department set about treating the lands."

Political pensions.

* 64 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state— 11-20 a.m.

(*a*) the number of recipients of political pensions paid out of State revenues;

(*b*) the smallest and the highest sum payable to them; and

(*c*) the total amount payable in a year under this head?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) 122.

" (*b*) Rs. 75-13-4 and Rs. 69,663-4-0, respectively, per annum.

" (*c*) Rs. 3,01,223-12-10."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Did this Government receive any communication from the Government of India enquiring about its attitude towards the future of political pensions and whether any, and if so, what reply was sent by this Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No, Sir, to my knowledge."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know whether any Member of this Legislature is drawing political pension? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think the hon. Member is obsessed with the idea that this political pension is also like assignment of lands to political sufferers. Here no such thing arises."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know how long the Government propose to continue the payment of political pensions? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Till the political pensioner dies, he surely gets it. After his death, it is stopped." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, on a previous occasion the then Chief Minister, Sri C. Rajagopalachari, in whose Cabinet the present Hon. Minister for Land Revenue was also a Member,